

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 25 June 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to the presidential statement dated 3 May 2001 (S/PRST/2001/13), in which the Security Council requested me to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a final period of three months, and that it submit to the Council, through me, an addendum to its final report.

I wish to inform you that it is my intention to appoint Mahmoud Kassem (Egypt) as Chairperson of the Panel. Mr. Kassem, who previously served as Chairman of the International Commission of Inquiry (Rwanda), and recently on the Committee of Experts on Afghanistan, is an eminent person whose experience amply qualifies him to occupy this important position.

Subject to the approval of the Security Council, the Chairperson and members of the Panel would briefly convene in New York before proceeding to the region. The Panel would then submit through me, after three months, the addendum to the final report containing its findings.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan
